CLAIMS

I claim:

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1. A method for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

inputting at least one operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development;

10   providing at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; and

determining, responsive to said at least one answer, at least one design guideline related to said at least one operational characteristic.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said operational characteristic comprises a configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development.

20   3. The method of claim 1, wherein said design guideline comprises a metadata tag to be associated with said at least one operational characteristic.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said design guideline comprises a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising inputting said at least one question, wherein said at least one question reflects a system design of said software system under development, and inputting a configuration for a presentation flow of said at least one question.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said at least one design guideline further comprises associating said design guideline with said operational characteristic of said component.

7. A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable medium, said computer readable medium having a computer program for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

    program code for inputting at least one operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development;

    program code for providing at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

    program code for inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; and

program code for determining, responsive to said at least one answer, at least one design guideline related to said at least one operational characteristic.

8. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein said operational characteristic comprises a configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development.

9. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein said design guideline comprises a metadata tag to be associated with said at least one operational characteristic.

10. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein said design guideline comprises a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic.

11. The computer program product of claim 7, further comprising program code for inputting said at least one question, wherein said at least one question reflects a system design of said software system under development, and program code for inputting a configuration for a presentation flow of said at least one question.

12. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein said program code for determining said at least one design guideline further comprises program code for associating said design guideline with said operational characteristic of said component.

13. A system for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

means for inputting at least one operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development;

5   means for providing at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

means for inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; and

means for determining, responsive to said at least one answer, at least one design guideline related to said at least one operational characteristic.

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14. The system of claim 13, wherein said operational characteristic comprises a configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development.

15   15. The system of claim 13, wherein said design guideline comprises a metadata tag to be associated with said at least one operational characteristic.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein said design guideline comprises a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic.

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17. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for inputting said at least one question, wherein said at least one question reflects a system design of said software

system under development, and means for inputting a configuration for a presentation flow of said at least one question.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein said determining said at least one design guideline

5   further comprises associating said design guideline with said operational characteristic of said component.

19. A system for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

10   program code, stored in a computer readable memory communicably coupled with at least one processor of a computer system, for inputting at least one operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for providing at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

. 15   program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; and

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for determining, responsive to said at least one answer, at least one design guideline related to said at least one operational characteristic.

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20. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, said computer data signal including at least one computer program for acquiring and distributing information

regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, said computer program comprising:

program code for inputting at least one operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development;

5   program code for providing at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

program code for inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; and

program code for determining, responsive to said at least one answer, at least one design guideline related to said at least one operational characteristic.